

Appl. Ser. No. 10/617, 573
Art Unit 1646

Response and Amendment under § 1.116

AMENDMENTS

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CENTRAL FAX CENTERIn the Claims:

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The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings.

Claims 1-60 (Previously canceled)

61. (Currently amended) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof of the polypeptide that binds the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6 to said mammal suffering from said disorder.

62. (Previously canceled)

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said polypeptide is encoded by ATCC deposit number PTA-1185.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is osteoarthritis.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is psoriatic arthritis.

67. (Previously canceled)

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

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69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

70. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 67~~ claim 61 wherein said antibody is a humanized antibody.

71. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 67~~ claim 61 wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

72. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for use in treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder comprising an effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof ~~of the polypeptide that binds the polypeptide~~ of SEQ ID NO:6 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

73. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 72 wherein said composition also contains an ~~immune inhibiting molecule~~ a cytotoxic agent.

74. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73 wherein the ~~immune inhibiting molecule~~ cytotoxic agent is methotrexate.

75. (Currently amended) A kit comprising a composition comprising an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof ~~of the polypeptide that binds the polypeptide~~ of SEQ ID NO:6 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a container containing said composition and a label affixed to said container, or a package insert included in said container, referring to the use of said composition, in the treatment of a degenerative cartilaginous disorder.

76. (Previously presented) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof wherein said antibody or fragment a) binds to a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:6 and b) inhibits the loss of cartilage.

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77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is osteoarthritis.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is psoriatic arthritis.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a humanized antibody.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')₂ fragment.

85. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 72 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')₂ fragment.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')₂ fragment.